

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/356,241

Examiner

Cam Y T Truong

Applicant(s)

BATES ET AL.

Art Unit

2172

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.


1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 9/28/2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-19, 21-27, 38, 48-57 and 60-66.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 16 July 1999 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


SHAHID ALAM
PRIMARY EXAMINER

DETAILED ACTION

1. Decision of Board of Appeals confirmed that claims 14-16, 21, 22, and 24-26 are sustained, but claims 17-19, 27, 48, 50, 51, and 53-57 are not sustained on 8/31/2004. Thus, the examiner's decision rejecting claims 14-19, 21, 22, 24-27, 48, 50-51 and 53-57 is affirmed in-part.

Applicant has amended claims 14, 24, 25, 54 and canceled claims 20, 28-37, 39-47 and 58-59 in the amendment filed on 9/28/2004.

Claims 1-19, 21-27, 38, 48-57 and 60-66 are pending in this Office Action.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1-19, 21-27, 38, 48-57 and 60-66 are allowed.

The prior art of record, alone or in combination, does not teach or fairly suggest the combination of steps as recited in independent claims 1, 11, 12, wherein "to order the identifications of the records in the result set using a user feedback parameter associated with each record in the result set; selectively update the user feedback parameter associated therewith in response to multiple access thereto by a user";

The prior art of record, alone or in combination, does not teach or fairly suggest the combination of steps as recited in independent claims 14, 24 and 25 "wherein ordering the identifications of the records in the result set includes: partitioning the result set into a plurality of relevance groups, with each relevance group including identifications of records having like relevancies to the search request; sorting the identifications of records within each relevance group according to the user feedback parameters associated therewith";

Art Unit: 2172

The prior art of record, alone or in combination, does not teach or fairly suggest the combination of steps as recited in independent claim 27, wherein "ordering the identifications of the records in the result set using a user feedback parameter associated with each record in the result set, each user feedback parameter including a plurality of weights, wherein ordering the identifications of the records includes using those weights associated with keywords that match the search request";

The prior art of record, alone or in combination, does not teach or fairly suggest the combination of steps as recited in independent claim 38, wherein "ordering the identifications of the subset of records in the result set using the user feedback parameter associated with each record in the result set; wherein the result set identifier for each search request record further includes a copy of the user feedback parameter for each of the subset of records identified thereby, and wherein selectively updating the user feedback parameter includes updating each copy of the user feedback parameter in the search request data structure";

The prior art of record, alone or in combination, does not teach or fairly suggest the combination of steps as recited in independent claims 55 and 56, wherein "to order the identifications of the records in the result set using the user feedback parameter associated with each record in the result set, wherein each user feedback parameter includes a plurality of weights, wherein the first program is configured to order the identifications of the records by using only those weights associated with keywords that match the search request"; and

Art Unit: 2172

The prior art of record, alone or in combination, does not teach or fairly suggest the combination of steps as recited in independent claims 64 and 65 "each search request record including a search request identifier identifying a unique combination of keywords; wherein the program is further configured to order the identifications of the subset of records in the result set using the user feedback parameter associated with each record in the result set; wherein the result set identifier for each search request record further includes a copy of the user feedback parameter for each of the subset of records identified thereby".

Contact Information


4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Cam Y T Truong whose telephone number is (571) 272-4042 . The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Breene can be reached on (571) 272-4107. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Cam-Y Truong

10/28/04


SHAHID ALAM
PRIMARY EXAMINER